

B-3485 - B-3487

1855-1899

108-112 E. West St. (North side)

Baltimore, Md.

Semi-public access

The north side of the 100 block of E. West St. is occupied exclusively by the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church and its subsidiary buildings. The large Gothic Revival style red brick church building, with its imposing east end apse and tower, was built in the late 1850's for the increasingly large German Catholic population in the community. The church building is located at 108 E. West St. To the east, at 110 E. West St. is the three story, five bay wide brick parish office, with shed roof and deep, paneled wooden cornice. This simple, Classical Revival structure was built in the early 1870's to serve as a school operated by the church. At 112 E. West St. is the Carruthers building, now the Allen Center for Senior Citizens, an imposing three story, five bay wide brown brick building with shed roof and elaborate Classical Revival stone trim, including a simulated brick "rusticated" basement, full-height arched bays, and a wide arched entranceway. The building was constructed in the 1890's.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

108 E. West St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_SITE

\_\_\_OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This Gothic Revival style church was begun in 1858 and the tall tower was completed in 1885. The church is constructed in brick with stone trim. The church runs parallel to West St. with the nave extending along West St. for six bays. The entrance to the church is located along West St., in the westernmost bay of the church. ~~located at the eastern end of the church and the nave.~~ At the eastern end of the church there is a five-sided apse rising the full height of the structure.

The church building occupies a lot 290' wide and about 120' deep with a rectory located at the western end of the lot. The building is constructed in running bond brickwork with grey stone trim. The gable roof of the nave and the separate roof of the apse are slate. Stepped back brick piers articulate the six bays of the nave. Similar piers mark the corners of the apse. Each pier frames a tall pointed arch window with deep brickwork hood, the upper point of which terminates in a brick cross design. Similar pointed arch windows mark the bays of the apse but instead of brick hoods these windows have stone hoods. The roof cornice of the nave and the apse is a typical Victorian style stepped brick and metal cornice. Rows of stepped brickwork are also used to articulate the various levels of the corner tower, as are bands of cut stone trim.

The one story high entrance area has a low, pointed arch entryway with stone hood set beneath a pointed gable roof flanked by two brick piers with stone turrets. The peak of the gable roof is surmounted by a stone cross. The church itself has similar carved stone corner turrets. The large stained glass window in the southern wall of the ~~church~~ has a pointed arch lintel with projecting stone hood. The window is set beneath a tall, false peaked gable roof with similar stone corner turrets and central cross as the gable roof over the main entrance. The window area is framed by the same stepped brick piers with stone trim as are used to articulate the bays of the nave. Each face of the tower is marked by paired, narrow, pointed arch windows filled with blinds, at the lower level, and with a single pointed arch window with upper trefoil stonework, at the upper level. The arched windows of both levels have stone hoods. Each corner of the tower has a decorative carved stone turret. An octagonal steeple rises above the tower with four pointed arch windows with pointed wooden hoods set in the four main faces. There is a subsidiary entrance to the church located in the second bay of the nave. This is lower in height than the main entrance but has a similar pointed gable roof, and pointed arch opening faced with stone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1858-1860; tower 1885 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church is extremely important to the Federal Hill/South Baltimore area as being the first church constructed in the area for the growing number of German Catholic residents, most quite recent immigrants. For years after its founding, services at the church were conducted in German and the church has always played an important role in the life of the German community in the area. In 1881 a parochial school adjoining the church was opened, which closed only recently. The area to the rear of the school building has long served the neighborhood as a playground. At the present time the Allen Center for Senior Citizens is located in the former Carruthers Center of the church (at 112 E. West St.) and is actively used by the elderly residents of the community, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. &amp; Eccles

DATE

5/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

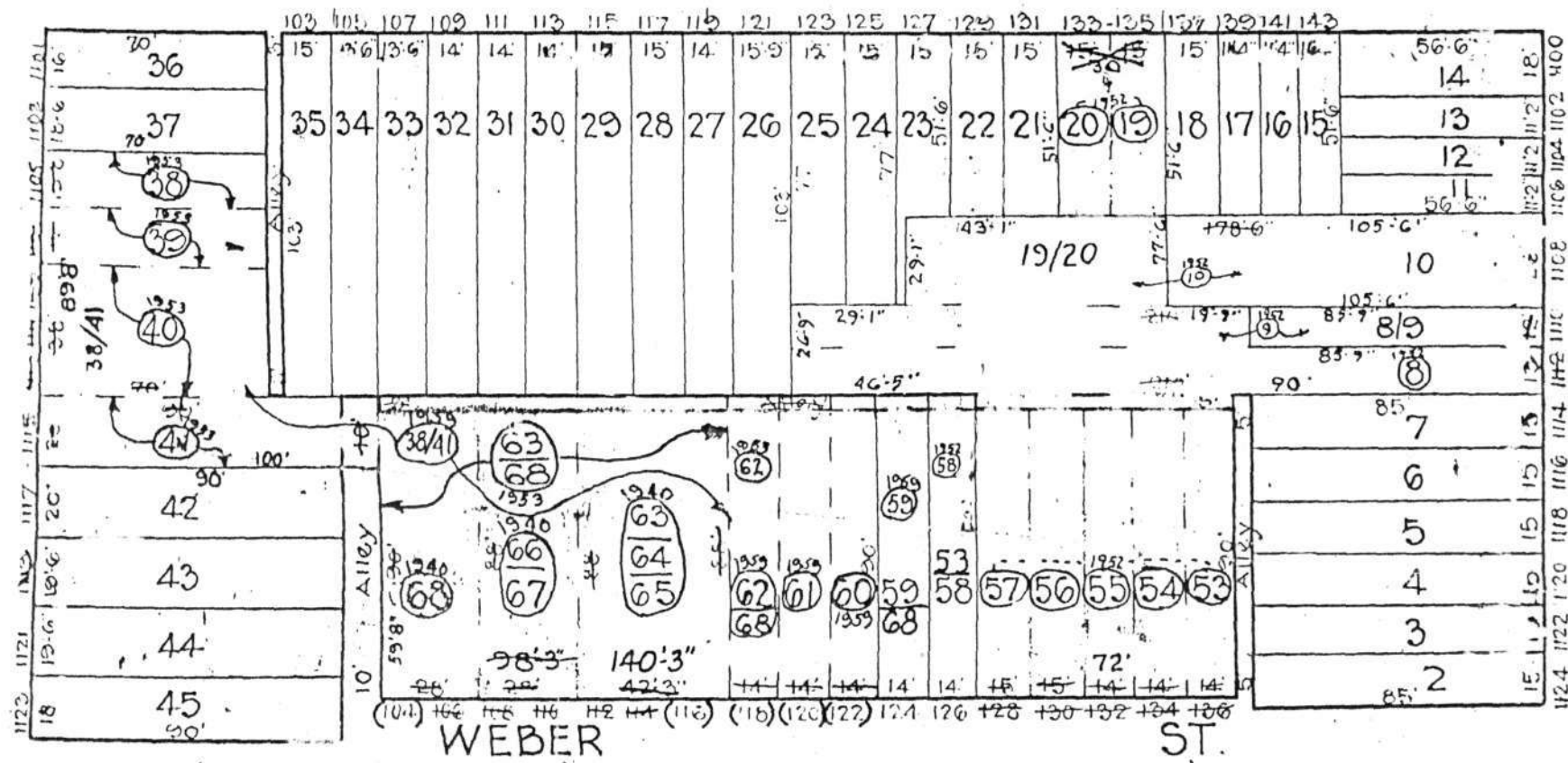
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

E. CROSS

ST.



ST.

LIGHT

E. WEST

B-3485

ST.

WILLIAM  
B-3485



B-3485  
Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church  
108 E. West Street  
Block 0951 Lot 001  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-3485

108 E. West St.

-M.E.H.

6/79 -

South elevation